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23 APR 1965

AGREEMENT FOR REORGANIZATION OF THE  
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

I. Preamble

Set forth below are certain basic assumptions which determine the organization appropriate for the administration and direction of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP).

A. The national character of this essential intelligence enterprise must be maintained through a joint endeavor on the part of DoD and CIA.

B. The potentialities of U.S. technology must be aggressively and imaginatively exploited to develop systems for the collection of intelligence which are fully responsive to intelligence needs and objectives. In the development of new systems maximum use must be made of the experience, resources, facilities and technical competence of appropriate components of the Defense Department and CIA.

C. Scheduling and targetting of satellite and manned aircraft reconnaissance missions over denied areas should be the responsibility of the DCI and the United States Intelligence Board (USIB).

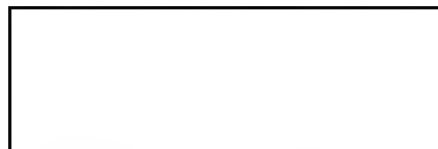
D. A new organizational framework is required which, particularly in the field of satellite reconnaissance operations and systems development, will: (1) provide a clearly established delineation of the roles and responsibilities of components of the Government engaged in these activities, and (2) ensure effective coordination of these activities under centralized policy guidance and control.

NRO review(s)  
completed.

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**II. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK:**

A. Executive Agent for the National Reconnaissance Program -- the Secretary of Defense.

**B. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

An Executive Committee, consisting of the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence, will be established to formulate, guide, and regulate the NRP. Specifically the Executive Committee will:

1. Examine the reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB against technical and fiscal capabilities, so as to establish an appropriate level of effort for the NRP. In this role it will rely largely on cost estimates and technical feasibility analyses prepared by the DNR and the component elements of the NR Organization and USIB views expressed with knowledge of cost factors.
2. Approve or modify the consolidated NR program and its budget as forwarded by the DNR.
3. Acting through the DNR, allocate responsibility and the corresponding funds to CIA and/or DOD for research and preliminary design studies for new systems.
4. Allocate development responsibility and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs to DOD or CIA, and establish guidelines for mutual support where appropriate. It shall be free to use technical advisory groups as necessary.
5. Assign operational responsibilities to either DOD or CIA for various types of manned overflight missions, subject to the concurrence, as appropriate, of the 303 Committee.
6. Review periodically the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.

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C. ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE:

To insure the coordination of CIA and DOD reconnaissance activities a Director of National Reconnaissance will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. The D/NRO will devote his activities exclusively to the NRP and will have no other official duties. He will provide a single point of integration for the planning and budgeting of the National Reconnaissance Program and will be responsible to the Executive Committee for the execution of the program. Specifically, he will:

1. Assume such command responsibilities over DOD elements of the NRP as the Secretary of Defense may designate. He will establish suitable lines of coordination with those line components which do not respond directly to him.
2. Be kept fully and completely informed of all reconnaissance activities in CIA and DOD.
3. Schedule the use of the space launching, tracking and recovery facilities.
4. Review budget proposals submitted by appropriate elements of CIA and DOD and prepare and submit a consolidated budget for examination and approval by the Executive Committee.
5. Ensure the flow of funds from the NRP appropriations to CIA and appropriate DOD elements in lump sum transfers each fiscal year. Incremental funding from reserve or reprogramming sources will be used for supplemental programs approved by ExCom.
6. Deal with the operating head of the CIA or his designated alternate on all matters of policy, coordination, or guidance. He will not exercise command control over subordinate elements of CIA or its personnel.
7. Sit with the USIB for the matters affecting the NRP.
8. Appear before the 303 Committee to the extent desired by the DCI or the Deputy Secretary of Defense to secure approval for overhead reconnaissance missions.

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D. MANNING OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE:

To insure that the National Reconnaissance Office is truly a national entity, it will be manned in a balanced way by personnel from DOD and CIA. An appropriate plan to rotate DOD and CIA personnel into key positions of the NRO will be developed. (Attached is chart showing key senior officials of NRO.)

OTHER FEATURES OF THE NRP

E. RESEARCH AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN:

1. Research on reconnaissance technology and preliminary design of new systems will be encouraged and supported in both CIA and DOD. It will be supported by a lump sum allocation from NRP funds to each group at a level to be established by the Executive Committee.

2. It is intended that these funds and their products represent the flexible cutting edge of the reconnaissance program. They should not be used to fund actual development or operational activities.

3. A prescribed amount of these resources will be allocated for support of basic research on reconnaissance technology to stimulate and assure the future vigor of this field. The DNR will be kept fully informed of all activities and developments in this connection for the purpose of ensuring appropriate coordination and preventing unwitting duplication as well as encouraging joint exploitation of new techniques.

4. Preliminary design and small technical feasibility demonstrations of new reconnaissance systems will also be funded from this innovation resource. Such work can grow out of requirements originating with USIB, the ExCom or the DNR for improvements in existing capabilities, or can result from spontaneous initiative in the CIA and DOD participating elements. However, it is important that the DNR and ExCom receive each month a comprehensive report on the initiation, status, or conclusion of such efforts. In this way, competitive study efforts will be recognized, approved or discouraged, and synchronized for later decision actions.

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F. SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT:

1. When a new system concept has been sufficiently well defined and its technical feasibility established to the satisfaction of the ExCom, it would be included in the inventory of the NRP. At this point, it should receive necessary funding from line items in the budget identified with these systems. These funds would then be allocated to CIA and/or DOD, to whom specific developmental responsibility has been assigned by the ExCom.

2. The element of CIA and/or DOD assigned development responsibility for a new system will be responsible for selecting and supervising capable contractors; for establishing such systems engineering support as they deem necessary; for rendering periodic reports on program progress to the DNR and ExCom and generally for the success of the program.

3. Satellite reconnaissance systems are characterized primarily by the payload (cameras, spacecraft, data recovery system) as well as by their boosters. The interface between the launch system and the payload is of critical importance and planning for compatible checkout and launch facilities, boosters, tracking and recovery must proceed with the payload development. The DNR will be responsible for the success of this interface.

G. OPERATIONAL PHASE:

1. When the satellite payload has been successfully developed, it becomes a part of the operational assets of the NRP. The payloads, together with appropriate boosters, launchers and tracking stations, represent the NRP capability to obtain orbital photography, and accordingly represent part of an orderly program to acquire intelligence in response to USIB requirements, target lists and priorities. The DNR must play the central role in planning this program. It involves far-sighted budgeting for payload production as well as booster procurement and modification. It involves judicious scheduling of operational launches from fixed resources, in addition to development flight tests. It requires a plan with sufficient flexibility to respond to changing world situations and the corresponding intelligence needs. It is a complex managerial task for which a single individual must in the last analysis be responsible.

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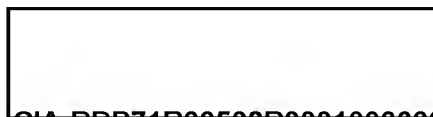
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2. The Satellite Requirements Program Center, formerly known as "Satellite Operations Center", is recognized as an intelligence function and shall be the responsibility of CIA, who will be responsive to USIB requirements.

H. MANNED RECONNAISSANCE:

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I. BUDGETING:



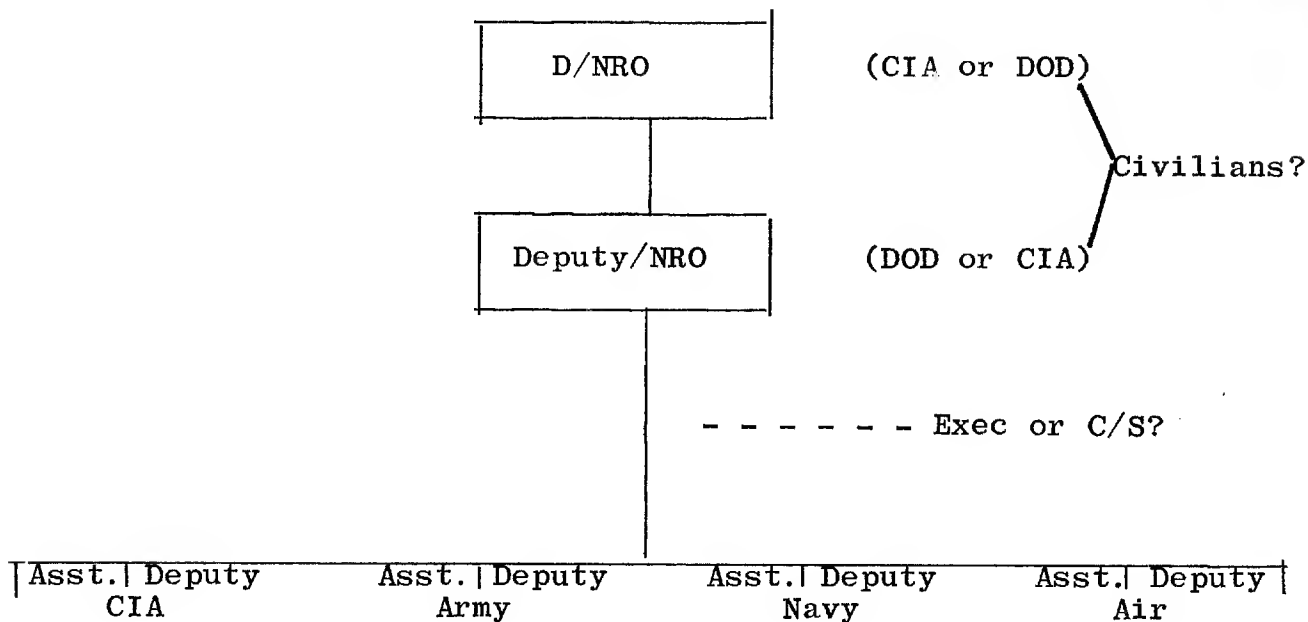
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ATTACHMENT



The Assistant Deputies would constitute the action and information channels to their respective parent services.



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